WRESTLING WRAP-UP NWA

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING VOL. 1 NO. 4

RIC'S BACK, HE'S MAD!

Luger's Out Of Control

Norman "The Lunatic"

An American Hero

RIC FLAIR RETURNS!

AND HE'S READY TO TAKE CARE OF TERRY FUNK, ONCE AND FOR ALL.

Flair will defend his title against Terry Funk LIVE on Pay-Per-View Cable, July 23! Call and order now!

The wrestling world patiently awaited the decision from Ric Flair and his doctors as to whether the NWA World Heavyweight Champion would be able to return to the ring or not, due to the massive neck injuries he sustained from Terry Funk.

Certainly you remember Funk's attack on Flair in Nashville on May 7. His unexpected attack left Flair with a severely injured neck, as well as cracked vertebrae.

Flair told Jim Ross in a nationally televised interview in June that if he couldn't return and represent the title in 100% condition, then he didn't deserve to hold the belt. He said, "If I can't stay, at least I'll know I went out on top." He would not shame the belt or himself by coming back unless he was healthy and could properly defend it. The NWA Board allowed him an extension on defending the title due to the bizarre circumstances, but told Flair that he would have to make a decision very soon. Flair told them that he would let them know by July 1 if he could defend the belt and if not, then he would forfeit the title. The NWA would then hold a major tournament among the Top Ten to decide the next World Champion.

Ric Flair called a press conference for July 1 in Atlanta and all the major press was there to find out the future of the champion and the NWA World Title. After an introduction by Jim Herd, executive vice president of World Championship Wrestling, Ric Flair told the assembled audience that he is ready to return and defend the title. His doctors have cleared him for July 23 and he asked Jim Herd for a contract to defend the World Title in Baltimore against a Top Ten contender. He then requested that his opponent be Terry Funk.

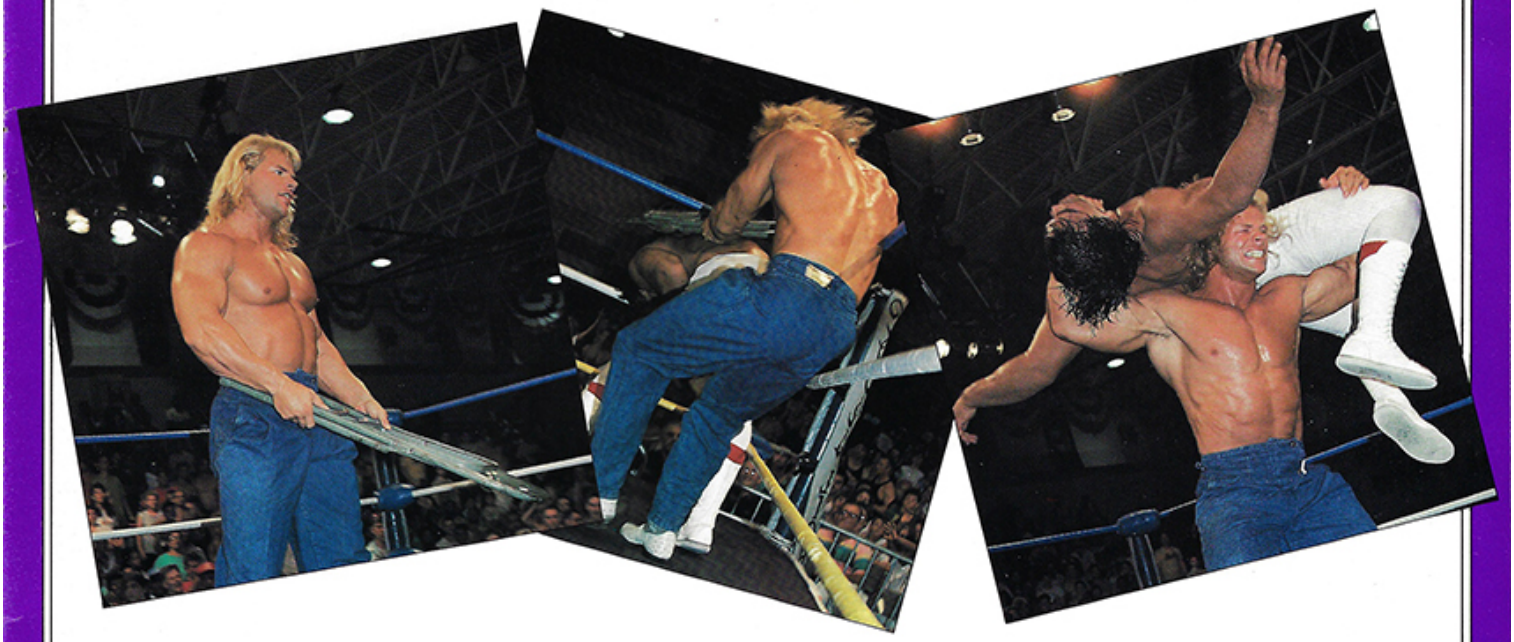
Mr. Herd, pleased by the announcement of Flair's return got the paperwork ready and Flair signed his name. We have no doubt that Funk will be only too eager to add his name to that contract!

Afterwards, Flair told us it is unfortunate that it had to come to this. He always had a lot of respect for Terry Funk and didn't realize that he was so bitter about not being the World Champion. After all, he is a success in Hollywood and has many friends there who are big stars. Funk is currently appearing in *Road House* with Patrick Swayze, had a co-starring role in *Paradise Alley* starring Sylvester Stallone and did stunts in *Rambo III* among many others.

"Evidently, his roots in wrestling always stayed with him and he must have felt that he had let it pass him by. He was not a champion, a contender or even a full-time wrestler anymore," Flair added.

But it looks like Terry Funk got what he set out to accomplish – a World Title shot against Ric Flair. Flair did not have to wrestle Terry Funk, as he is not the #1 contender, but he wants to show the world that he can take care of Terry Funk, once and for all.

LEX LUGER'S TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL!



At the Clash of the Champions–VII, "Guts and Glory," held in Ft. Bragg, NC, Lex Luger surprised the wrestling world by putting his huge personal ego and greed ahead of his many close friendships and his personal relationship with the fans.

To bring you up to date in case you missed the big news, Ricky Steamboat, the #1 contender to the World Title, was wrestling Terry Funk, then ranked at the #10 position in the Main Event. This was a match that Steamboat felt he owed Flair.

The match got out of control as Funk was slamming "The Dragon" with a steel chair and anything he could get his hands on. After he smashed Steamboat in the head with a microphone, the referee had to stop the bout, disqualifying Funk. This enraged the Texan and he started to pummel Steamboat without mercy. Suddenly, the crowd began to cheer as the "Total Package" Lex Luger ran down the aisle and into the ring. He reached down and helped Ricky up, and as Steamboat struggled to his feet, Luger's face turned into an enraged mask of evil. He threw the hardest, fastest clothesline to Steamboat's throat that we have ever witnessed! Steamboat's head looked like it wanted to come off at the base and fly into the crowd. Luger had gone insane! Steamboat was crawling to the ropes trying to find shelter as Luger raised a steel chair high over his head, savoring the moment. Steamboat looked at the chair, then out into the crowd at his wife and then was slammed in the back with the chair. Next, Luger put Steamboat in his patented Torture Rack and stretched him until the other wrestlers ran out to break things up. His neck was badly sprained, but this will not keep "The Dragon" from avenging the sneak attack!

Why did this happen? What snapped in Luger's mind? Looking back at some of his recent interviews, we see that he has been complaining about the fact that he is the U.S. Heavyweight Champion, but not the #1 contender. He is currently rated in the #2 slot. Well, Mr. Luger, that is because Ricky Steamboat was the World Champion and has not had his rematch with Ric Flair yet. Therefore, he is still the #1 contender. If he wrestles Flair and loses, then the U.S. Titleholder will most likely advance to the #1 slot, but at this time Steamboat is still the ex-World Champion waiting for his rematch.

What makes us mad the most is the way Luger is turning on his legions of fans. Recently, he told Jim Ross, "I've catered to the fans for a year and a half now and it has gotten me nowhere! It got me nothing. So ladies, quit sending me your stupid letters, your stupid little poems and your flowers. I don't need them and I don't want them. I can have any beautiful woman I want in the world and I sure don't need you. You guys out there should have been catering to me all along, because now it's too late. I don't care if you cheer for me or not. You're all wimps and wish you lived my lifestyle, but you never will except in your dreams. If any of you out there have my autograph, you better frame it because it's gonna be the last one I ever sign."

Lex Luger, these great fans are the ones who put groceries in your refrigerator, pay your bills and support that lifestyle of yours! On a recent segment of *NWA Main Event* Jim Ross said, "Lex Luger is a first-class jerk." Bob Caudle, on *NWA Pro Wrestling*, said that he was very disappointed in Luger, and evidently Lex had been fooling everybody all along.

When Luger and Steamboat face off in Baltimore in the U.S. Heavyweight Title match and one of their hands is raised in victory, there will be no doubt at that time who, indeed, is the legitimate #1 contender to the World Title. Steamboat will be defending his #1 contender's slot and Luger will be defending the U.S. Heavyweight Title–winner take all! We're looking forward to Lex Luger learning some humility–the hard way–and Ricky Steamboat is just the man to do it!

This match is only one of the many big matches that will be carried live Sunday, July 23 on Pay-Per-View, so call your cable company now for ordering information and see it from the comfort of your own home. This is going to be a wild card!

RANGER ROSS: A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

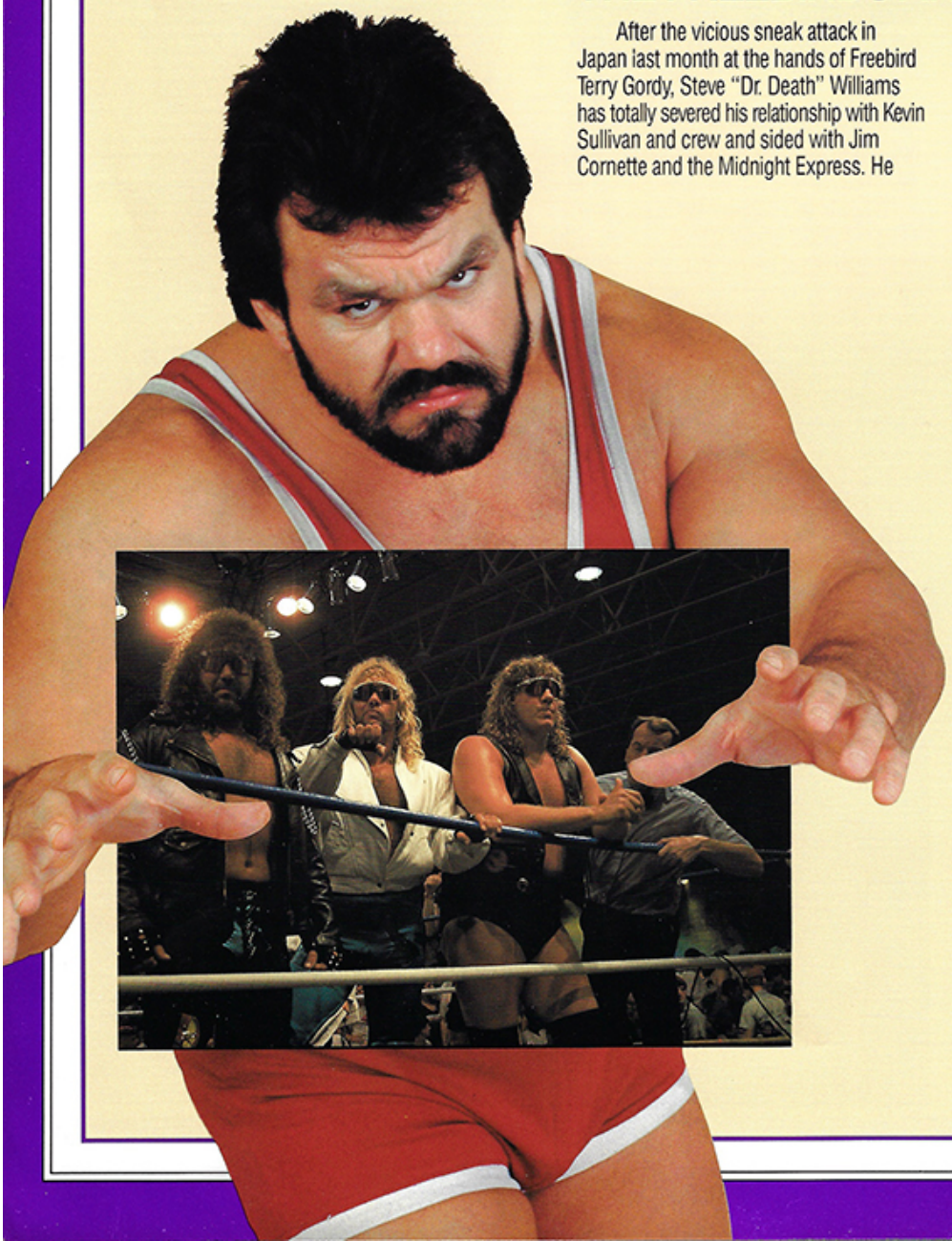
Ranger Robert Ross Jr. was born in Acworth, GA, and spent eight years in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the elite Ranger team, training at Ft. Bragg, NC, among other installations, and was stationed around the world. Ross received a commendation for bravery from President Reagan after the Grenada invasion and rescue mission, and participated in the rescue attempt to free the hostages from Iran under President Jimmy Carter. He is a decorated soldier and a bonafide American hero. He literally put his life on the line for our country on more than one occasion and would proudly do it again if asked.

After leaving the Army with an honorable discharge, Ross needed a career in the civilian world. A friend suggested that with all of his hand-to-hand combat training, he might be able to make it in pro wrestling. Ross worked his way up through several independent associations, perfecting his moves and constantly training. He has won many of his matches with his special "combat kick" to his opponent's chest or head. It either knocks all the breath out of you or it knocks you out cold. In either case, it works for Ranger Ross.

Ross recently told us, "The highlight in my career so far was on June 14 when I went back to Ft. Bragg and wrestled in front of all my old buddies and commanding officers. When I pinned my opponent, it was just beautiful the way everybody cheered for me. I love this country, I love wrestling and I love the fans. Keep behind me and you're gonna see Ranger Ross take care of some business."

DR. DEATH SIDES WITH MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

THE FREEBIRDS ARE IN *BIG* TROUBLE!



After the vicious sneak attack in Japan last month at the hands of Freebird Terry Gordy, Steve "Dr. Death" Williams has totally severed his relationship with Kevin Sullivan and crew and sided with Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express. He is not "joining" the Midnight Express, but is aligning himself with them as an "associate" in their common desire to gain revenge on the Freebirds.

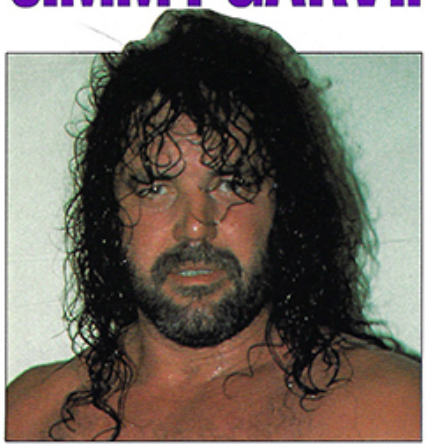
It was the Freebirds, Hayes and Garvin, who cheated the Midnight Express out of the World Tag-Team Title in Ft. Bragg, NC at Clash VII. The Midnight Express would have won the belt as Bobby Eaton had Garvin pinned, but Michael distracted the referee while Terry Gordy ran in and piledrove Eaton with his patented "power bomb." Garvin then rolled on Eaton, Michael went back to his corner and the ref turned and counted the win. It was robbery!

Cornette was not at ringside to help in this situation due to Paul E. nearly knocking his head off before the match with a racket containing a horseshoe and a steel chain. Jim Cornette is especially looking forward to having Dr. Death be another set of eyes for him after that incident.

The Freebirds have always had a reputation for being tough, even vicious, but Dr. Death is no stranger to large-scale violence. In fact, he is a one-man demolition crew! These teams exploded recently all over the Center Stage arena in Atlanta, nearly destroying the television taping taking place. The Freebirds were embarrassed on national television by getting beat in the impromptu non-title match, which they requested.

This is a powder keg ready to blow! Doc told us, "I want Terry Gordy real bad and if I have to rip the arms off Hayes or the legs off Garvin to get to him, I'll do it. They're nothing but punks to me."

JIMMY GARVIN–NEW MEMBER OF FREEBIRDS!



The wrestling world was taken by total surprise on June 14 at Clash VII, when Freebird Michael P.S. Hayes walked out to compete in the World Tag-Team semifinals, not with one of his brothers Terry Gordy or Buddy Roberts as a partner, but with the former "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin, now "Freebird" Jimmy Garvin. Gordy did follow, however, striking a very menacing figure.

Jim Ross didn't know what to say, except to announce that Jimmy Garvin appeared to be the new Freebird as the match was ready to begin. They had waited until the last second to walk to the ring.

Thinking back on history, however, it really shouldn't have been that big of a surprise because Hayes and Garvin have had a friendship that goes back many years. Regardless of the group or association they wrestled for, they have always been there for each other when the need arose. Evidently, Hayes and Gordy have decided to make that relationship permanent by making Garvin an official Freebird.

They bashed their way through the semi-finals and then, by cheating, they eliminated the Midnight Express, winning the World Tag-Team Titles. This new Freebird team is tough and dangerous, but Terry Gordy is the reason they won that night.

We spoke to Michael and he said, "You tell the fans to shove it, Jack! We've been fan favorites the past few years and for what? We hated it when we had to let 'em kiss us and hug us and all that. We tried, but we just don't care if you like us or not! All it did was break me and my brothers apart! So we went our separate ways and everybody wondered if the Freebirds would ever get back together. Well, we have and now everybody is upset! Just 'cause we won the World Title the first night big Jimmy is in! Now you know why you fans are all stupid. You don't appreciate nuthin'!"

EDDIE GILBERT CHALLENGES THE GREAT MUTA TO A "DOUBLE JEOPARDY" MATCH

"Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert has challenged the Great Muta to a very dangerous match called a "Double Jeopardy" match.

What thismeans is that before the match, the referee will flip a coin. If Gary Hart wins the call for Muta, then the match will be a "Dragon-Shei" match, where a kendo stick will be placed in the middle of the ring and whoever gains possession of it can use it on the other opponent.

An Oriental wrestler like Muta can literally "walk the ropes" in a match like this and destroy his opponent without being touched. Muta has been trained all his life for this style of wrestling, where Gilbert has never even seen a Dragon-Shei match.

If Gilbert wins the coin toss, however, it means that a heavy coal miner's glove will placed on a pole and whoever reaches the glove first can use it on the other. A coal miner's glove is a very thick leather glove that has steel studs on it, used in loosening coal or breaking it up. The glove is very heavy and can inflict a lot of pain and damage. Gilbert has been in a few of these type matches in his career but Muta has not.

This type of match is very dangerous to both wrestlers, as it could go either way and one of them will not be prepared for it. But Gilbert and Hart have signed the contracts, so watch for this exciting match!

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

" "

Beginning in this issue, every month we'll select a few of the more memorable quotes that aired on TV the previous month.

Michael Hayes (TBS): "Teddy Long's like Mother Teresa. He tries to help the needy."

Cornette (TBS): "I'm ready to talk so fast, my gums are gonna catch fire from the friction."

Terry Funk (NWA Pro) to Sting: "You're the World Television Champion. What are you gonna be next month? The World Washing Machine Champion? Are you gonna have a Maytag or a Lady Kenmore on your belt?"

Lex Luger (TBS Clash): "Some people say I have a problem with my ego."

Bob Caudle (during TBS Clash): "I bet it'll be cooler tomorrow in Augusta."

CHAMPIONS & CONTENDERS

NWA CHAMPIONS

World Heavyweight Champion
"Nature Boy" Ric Flair

U.S. Heavyweight Champion
Lex Luger

World Television Champion
Sting

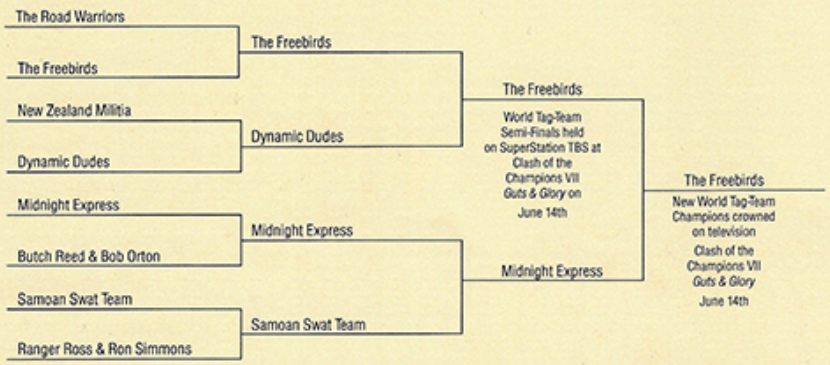
U.S. Tag-Team Champions
"Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert & Rick Steiner

World Tag-Team Champions
Freebirds

JULY TOP TEN

1) Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat
Former World Champion
2) "Total Package" Lex Luger
3) Sting
4) Terry Funk
5) The Great Muta
6) Terry "Bam-Bam" Gordy
7) Steve "Dr. Death" Williams
8) "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert
9) Dick Murdoch
10) Ranger Ross

WORLD TAG-TEAM TOURNAMENT RESULTS



In semifinal action, the Fabulous Freebirds (Hayes and Garvin) defeated the Dynamic Dudes when Hayes ran in and DDT'd Shane, who had Garvin rolled up at the time, then Garvin pinned him. In the other semifinal match, the Midnight Express defeated the Samoan Swat Team when the Road Warriors ran in and clotheslined Fatu, who was then pinned by Stan Lane. This was a little payback on the Road Warriors' part.

In the finals, the Freebirds were victorious over the Midnight Express due to the interference of Terry Gordy and the elimination of Cornette by Paul E. Dangerously.

The tournament is over and the new champions were crowned, but the wars have only begun! Many new developments have come out of this event that will be felt for a very long time.

RULES FOR GREAT AMERICAN BASH

We have received many letters asking for information on the rules for some of the matches of the Great American Bash series currently touring America.

TRIPLE CROWN KING OF THE HILL BATTLE ROYAL

Two rings will be built side by side. Up to 30 wrestlers will enter Ring #1 and a Battle Royal will take place down to the last man being declared the winner. All the men eliminated from Ring #1 will go to Ring #2 have another Battle Royal down to the last man. The winner from Ring #2 and and Ring #1 will face each other. The overall winner will be that night's "King of the Hill" champion and win $25,000.

WAR GAMES

This is a special match for teams of five. The War Games arena consists of two rings built side by side with a cage surrounding both rings and covering all sides including the roof.

Members of each team enter in two-minute intervals until all ten wrestlers are going at it full force.

In Baltimore on July 23, the teams will be Dr. Death, the Road Warriors and the Midnight Express going against the Samoan Swat Team and the Fabulous Freebirds.

"DRAGON-SHEI" MATCH

A kendo stick, which is a leather-bound bamboo pole, will be placed in the middle of the ring. Whoever gains possession of it can use it on his opponent. An Oriental wrestler like Muta can literally "walk the ropes" in a match like this, keeping out of reach and destroying his opponent without ever being touched.

Muta has been heavily trained in this style of wrestling. American wrestlers, however, are not usually familiar with this obscure Oriental martial art.

THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH TOUR SUMMER '89

The Great American Bash '89 Tour has swung motion and begun its trek across the country. It began on June 22 in Landover, MD, and will finish up on August 6 in Atlanta, GA. Don't miss seeing the NWA live and in person when they come to a city near you!

July 1989

July 17–Lubbock, TX–Fair Park Coliseum, TV Taping
July 18–Amarillo, TX–Civic Center, TV Taping
July 19–Atlanta, GA–Center Stage
July 20–Lexington, KY–Rupp Arena
July 21–Dayton, OH–UD Arena
July 22–Philadelphia, PA–Civic Center
July 23–Baltimore, MD–Pay-Per-View *Great American Bash!*
July 24–Altoona, PA–Jaffa Mosque
July 25–Wilmington, NC–Legion Stadium
July 26–Jacksonville, FL–Coliseum
July 27–Tallahassee, FL–Civic Center
July 28–Orlando, FL–Civic Center
July 29–St. Petersburg, FL–Bay Front Center
July 30–Miami, FL–Knight Center
July 31–New Orleans, LA–Municipal Auditorium

August 1989

Aug. 1–Baton Rouge, LA–Centroplex
Aug. 3–Little Rock, AK–Barton Coliseum
Aug. 4–Kansas City, MO–Kemper Arena
Aug. 5–St. Louis, MO–Kiel Auditorium
Aug. 6–Atlanta, GA–Omni

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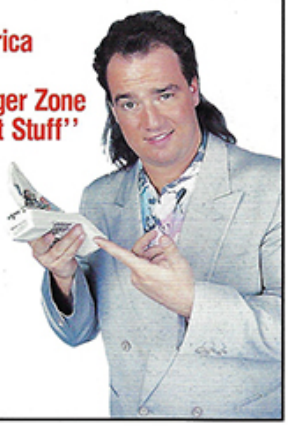
WEDNESDAY: Paul E. Dangerously's Danger Zone
THURSDAY: Eddie Gilbert Presents "Hot Stuff"
FRIDAY: The Jim Ross Report
SATURDAY: Saturday Night Fights
SUNDAY: Sunday Night Main Events



Kids, get your parents' permission before calling. Cost is $2.00 for the first minute and $.45 for each additional minute.

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LIVE! FROM BALTIMORE

The countdown has begun! The super spectacular summer tradition continues when professional wrestling's top contenders collide in "Bash '89." Wrestling fans already know that in the heat of the night tempers will flare, titles will be stripped, egos will be bruised and more than one score will be settled. You can count on "The Glory Days" to continue the NWA tradition of excellence.

Featuring top stars of the NWA: Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, "Total Package" Lex Luger, Sting, The Road Warriors with Paul Ellering, The Samoan Swat Team with Paul E. Dangerously and many more of the meanest, mightiest wrestling stars!

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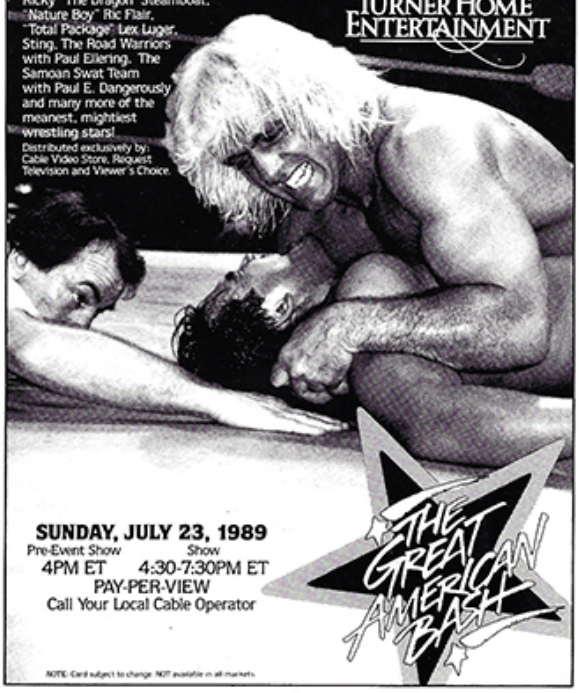

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